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# Weapons Intelligence Summary

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OFFICE OF WEAPONS INTELLIGENCE

WEAPONS INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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C-006 MISSION - A PARTIAL FAILURE

The mission of the People's Republic of China (PRC) satellite C-006 is assessed as a partial failure. The assessment of partial failure for C-006 is based on a

received. The impact of this partial failure on the Chinese Elint reconnaissance program is difficult to assess at this time.

failed. And it is possible that the program may be delayed if extensive fixes are required to ensure that this type of failure will not be repeated in the future.

C-006, which was launched from Shuang-chung-tzu Missile Test Center at 1145:07Z on 30 August (see WIS for 1 September 1976), has been previously assessed as the test of another Elint reconnaissance satellite. This assessment was based on the similarities of C-006 to C-003 and C-005 which were prototype Elint reconnaissance satellites. All three satellites were launched at the same inclination, carried the same

However, the orbit into which C-006 was placed has an apogee that is about six times higher than those of its predecessors.

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[redacted]

The Chinese had 13 months and 8 months, respectively, to analyze the data from C-003 and C-005. And we would expect that, in the normal progression of satellite testing, the third in a series would be more advanced or more extensively tested. [redacted]

[redacted] the only obvious difference between C-006 and its two predecessors is the orbit into which it was placed. The apogee of C-006 is about six times higher than either C-003 or C-005. Even though the apogee of C-006 occurs in the southern hemisphere, this still results in an orbit that increases the view time over areas of the Soviet Union that were previously monitored by C-003 and C-005. It also increases the time that the satellite is in view of the Chinese STN. Therefore, it is possible that the orbit of C-006 may represent the orbit for operational Chinese Elint satellites.

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